

FORM B – BUILDING

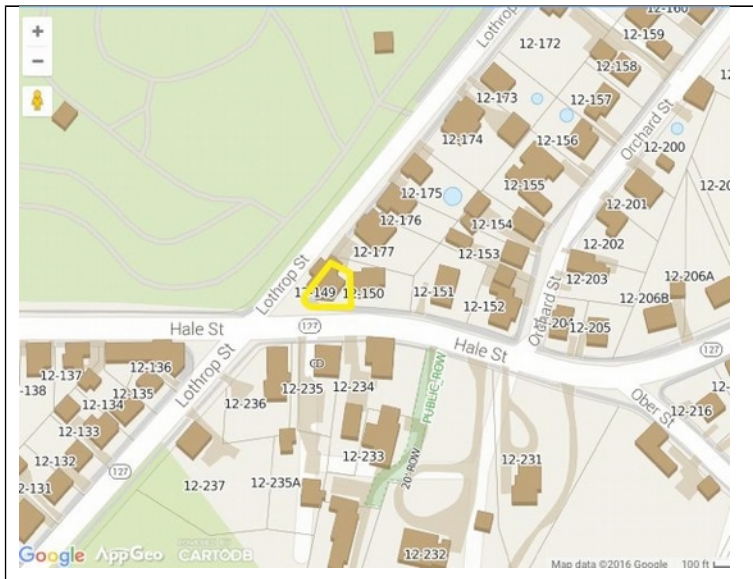
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



West and south (façade) elevations

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford
Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission
Date (month / year): September 2016

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

12-149

Marble-head N

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Town/City: Beverly

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Dane Street Beach

Address: 84 Hale Street

Historic Name: Louer Hose House #5

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: fire station

Date of Construction: 1871

Source: Beverly Historical Society

Style/Form: Italianate with Classical Revival storefronts

Architect/Builder: not identified

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible at front; concrete at rear

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding and trim; brick veneer; wood clapboard and trim

Roof: fiberglass asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

First floor storefront addition (1948); rear addition (1982); aluminum siding, brick veneer, window replacement (20th c)

Condition: good to fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.05 acre

Setting: Located at the prominent intersection of Hale Street and Lothrop/East Lothrop Streets. Surrounding, predominantly residential neighborhood dates from the late 18th through early 20th centuries. Central Cemetery located at NW corner of intersection.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BEVERLY

84 HALE STREET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Louer Hose House #5 occupies a small, trapezoidal lot at the northeast corner of Hale and East Lothrop streets, near Central Cemetery, and Dane Street Beach. Hale Street (a.k.a. Route 127) is a major thoroughfare between downtown Beverly and the adjacent town of Manchester, along Beverly's "Gold Coast". The building has no front setback, a minimal paved setback on its west (East Lothrop Street) side, a paved parking area across the back (north) of the lot, and a narrow setback on the east side of the property. The building consists of a 2 ½ story wood frame firehouse and a one-story, flat-roofed storefront wrapping around the south, east, and much of the north sides of the earlier structure.

Measuring 18 feet wide by 28 feet deep, the Hose House structure rises to a low-pitched, front gable roof with gable returns and a cupola set towards the front of the building. A slender, parged chimney rises near the back of the main block. Exterior walls are clad with aluminum siding and corner boards. The widely projecting roof edge features a simple wood entablature with a dentil course along the long west and east walls, paired carved brackets at the building corners and along the raking eaves, and cornice molding at the raking entablatures. Windows are typically 1/1 replacement sash with no trim. Sheathed with wood, the cupola displays two segmental arched windows on each façade; sawn wood brackets, a dentil course, and cornice molding; and a low hip roof.

The exposed south (façade) elevation of the Hose House features a three-part window unit centered on the second floor, with narrow, arched, double-hung sash; no window trim survives. The west elevation is blank at the first floor and has three windows asymmetrically arrayed across the second floor. The Hose House's east elevation contains two asymmetrical window openings on the second story. The rear (north) elevation is blank on the first two floors and has a smaller, rectangular window in the half story. An undated historic photograph (late 19th or early 20th century) shows the building with corner boards or pilasters; a large vehicle door centered in the facade, with a shallow bracketed hood; the trio of arched windows on the second story of the façade embraced by a large, semi-circular arched frame; and three bays of 2/2 windows on both the first and second floors of the west elevation; and band molded casings at the windows.

The one-story storefront that wraps around three sides of the Hose House is wood-frame construction with brick veneer and a wood parapet along Hale Street and aluminum and wood clapboard siding on its remaining walls. The large rectangular windows on the storefront appendage are trimmed with brick rowlock sills and soldier course lintels; doorways also have soldier course lintels. The angled corner facing Lothrop Street contains a single-leaf door flanked by a large storefront window on each side; all three openings are filled in. An entrance facing Hale Street is flanked by the two largest storefront window openings, which have been blocked down with a narrow glazed panel inserted in the top. A third, service doorway is set in the easternmost bay; it has also been filled in. The southeastern elevation of the storefront addition contains a single, horizontal window at the back end of the wall. The only other fenestration visible on the addition includes another horizontal window and a utilitarian door on the west elevation, facing East Lothrop Street.

Building permits indicate that the brick veneer on the one story storefront extension was added in 1940, and that the side and rear addition was made in 1982.

Louer Hose House #5 is a handsomely detailed, early example of wood-frame, civic architecture in Beverly. Major alterations include the application of artificial siding, the loss of original trim and the original firehouse door, and replacement window sash. The building is notable for its prominent location, decorative eaves, trio of arched windows on the upper floor of the façade, intact cupola, and historically significant adaptive reuse for commercial functions.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The property at 84 Hale Street represents an interesting evolution from civic to commercial uses, and illustrates the more ethnically diverse residents that were attracted to Beverly during the 20th century. Louer Hose House No. 5 was dedicated on 13 July 1871, one of three fire houses constructed in Beverly that year. (One of its contemporaries, the Washington Hose House No. 1, displays a design very similar to the Louer Hose House, but with much more of its original exterior features surviving. Built at the corner of Rantoul and Roundy streets, the Washington Hose House was moved to River Street ca. 2000 and has been adaptively re-used as a homeless shelter.)

The "Louer" name appears to derive from John Louer (1835-?1913), of Charlestown, Mass., who advertised himself as a builder of "Hose Carriages and Hook and Ladder Carriages" (Charlestown directory, 1869: 308). Louer was active at least in the late 1860s and early 1870s; he is known to have supplied a hook and ladder truck to the Town of Brookline in 1871.

City records indicate that \$2,700 was spent on construction of the Louer Hose House. An 1880 guide for travelers on the North Shore describes the picturesque setting of the building: after passing the Bancroft estate (Hale House) along Lothrop Street, "following this street through the valley of willows and up a hill to the Louer hose-house, leaving the beautiful cemetery on the left, we turn to the right into Hale Street...." (*The North Shore of Massachusetts Bay*: 45).

In 1886, Charles Larcom was identified as the foreman of the fire station here, in charge of 15 men, likely volunteers. The Louer Hose House appears to have been renumbered to Hose No. 6 sometime between 1886 and 1890. The station may have been made obsolescent by construction of the large Central Engine House that was built several blocks away, at 15 Hale Street, in 1885, and by the new engine house built at Beverly Farms in 1886-87. By 1895, the city's fire chief reported that the Louer Hose House was in poor condition. In 1896 its four-wheeled, hand hose carriage was said not to be in use and the station was closed. In 1898, the City Auditor's report records that the Louer Hose House was sold at auction for \$930.

By 1905, the property was occupied by a variety store operated by Cyrus F. Miller, who lived on site. The full history of specific alterations for commercial use of this property is not presently known. By 1915, Miller was running a business in tire vulcanizing at 84 ½ Hale Street, and James J. Rourke was operating a grocery store and residing at 84 Hale Street. The 1925 directory shows C. F. Miller back in business at 84 Hale Street, offering groceries, provisions, and vulcanizing, while he resided next door at 86 Hale Street. Karl E. Richmond, a laborer, and his wife Viola lived in the former fire station building in that year. Charles W. Eason, grocer, lived here in 1935. (Cyrus Miller's widow, Sophia, was still living at 86 Hale Street.)

Peter A. Brown of Manchester ran a grocery store here in 1945; his daughter Betty Brown, a clerk in the store, roomed both here and in Manchester in that year. (The Brown family, originally named Psalidas, were Greek immigrants who spent 75 years in the grocery business in Manchester.) By 1955, the building was occupied by Cove Variety Store, Emmanuel Carinos, proprietor. Carinos lived on the property with his wife Catherine, who was a clerk at the store. By 1965, the Cove Variety Store was owned by Mrs. Mary Kotsovilis, who lived at 147 East Lothrop Street.

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Continuation sheet 2

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Town of Brookline, Mass. *Treasurer's Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Brookline for the Year Ending February 1, 1872*. Boston: J. E. Farwell & Co., 1872.
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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



South (façade) and east elevations



North and west elevations



Historic image (Beverly Historical Society): undated



Historic image (Beverly Historical Society): View ca. 1970s